



Standards Committee

City of Westminster

Date:	15 March 2017
Classification:	For General Release
Title:	Annual review Complaints Made against Members under the Code of Conduct
Report of:	Director of Law
Wards Involved:	Not Applicable
Financial Summary:	There are no financial implications
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1. Executive Summary

1.1 During the last year the Council has revised and adopted a new code of conduct for Members and the Monitoring officer has received 5 complaints on Members' conduct.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Standards Committee note this report

3. Background

3.1 The Standards Committee is responsible for advising the Council on the adoption and revision of the Members' code of conduct. On 13th July 2016 the Council adopted a revised version of the Members' Code of Conduct ("the code").

4. Training Members on the new code

4.1 The Monitoring Officer has offered training to all elected and co-opted members. Over half of the elected members have attended to date and further dates are being arranged.

5. Register of Interests

5.1 All Members have submitted the requisite forms to register their disclosable pecuniary interests. Most have done so via the online system for the registration of interests and the majority of Members are using the system to update their registrations and to declare any gifts or hospitality.

- 5.2 Members should make sure that their register of interests is kept up to date firstly, because it is a requirement of the Localism Act 2011 and a criminal offence if they do not and secondly, because members of the public, as they are entitled to, regularly check that Members have updated their interests.

6. Complaints

- 6.1 In the past 12 months five complaints have been received by the Monitoring Officer alleging a breach of the Code. In all of the cases the Monitoring Officer decided not to refer the complaint for investigation as there was no evidence of a breach. The Monitoring Officer also received one complaint about a Parish Council Councillor; the complaint was not referred for investigation as there was no evidence of a breach.
- 6.2 None of the Complainants exercised their right to appeal to the Chief Executive to review the Monitoring Officer's decision.

7. Committee on Standards in Public Life Annual Report 2015-2016

- 7.1 The latest Annual Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life was published on 4 August 2016. Their work during the year included a review on how regulators uphold the seven principles of public life, the issue of party funding and the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in 2016.
- 7.2 The extract from the report dealing with standards in local government is at Appendix A. The report also sets out the proposed forward plan of work for the Committee and provides in relation to local government;

Local Government

104. The Committee regularly receives correspondence on the issue of ethical standards in local government, at both officer and elected member level. So, looking further ahead, we intend to undertake a review to clarify the topics of substantive concern, research the underlying causes and to identify best practice in well-governed authorities. This work will straddle the Committee's work programme for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no financial implications.

10. Other Implications: None

**If you have any questions about this report, please contact Rhian
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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1972
BACKGROUND PAPERS - None**